

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended as it was amended in the parent application (U.S. serial application 10/174,455) and in the grandparent application (U.S. serial application 09/189,761). In addition, proposed drawing changes marked in red are enclosed. More specifically, changes are proposed to Figures 2B-10. These drawing changes were also made to the parent application (and the grandparent application). Applicants ask the Examiner to approve the enclosed proposed drawing changes. New claims 46-57 are presented in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance ask for an early notice of allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephoned the undersigned at (925) 456-7355.

In the Utility Patent Application Transmittal paper submitted herewith, Applicants have authorized payment of fees for the filing of the new continuation application and the presentation of additional claims. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due, Applicants hereby authorize the Director to charge any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (order no. P71C2-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 31 March 2004

By: Stuart L. Merkadeau
Stuart L. Merkadeau
Registration No. 33,262

FormFactor, Inc.
Legal Department
2140 Research Dr.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-294-4300
925-294-8147 Fax